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BOOK THREE:
X-MEN
MEN & X



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CHRIS CLAREMONT • SEAN CHEN

WHEN I WAS AN X-MAN, SOMEONE TOLD ME I WAS THE OLDEST LOOKING KID THEY'D EVER MET. IN FACT, THAT I WAS A KID IN NAME ONLY.

WHEN YOU'VE SEEN WHAT
I'VE SEEN, THE MEMORIES
LEAVE THEIR MARK.

WHAT MATTERS AFTERWARDS IS CHOOSING WHICH ONES YOU EMBRACE. THE MOMENTS OF DEATH AND HORROR, OR THOSE THAT UPLIFT THE SPIRIT.

OUR ADVERSARY HAD THROWN DOWN THE GALINLET WITH BLOOD AND FIRE. NOW IT WAS OUR TURN.

MYSTIQUE
(RAVEN DARKHOLME)



THE SOURCE OF THE ATTACKS WAS THE *SHI'AR* IMPERIAL
THRONEWORLD OF CHANDILAR. WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW WAS
WHO'D GIVEN THE ORDER: EMPRESS LILANDRA, HER
CHANCELLOR OR SOMEONE WE HADN'T YET MET?

GAMBITLET THE WAY INTO THE HEART OF HER STRONGHOLD, MASQUERADING AS SINISTER AND BRINGING ALONG RACHEL AND CABLE AS HIS BODYGUARD "HOUNDS."

HE WAS FOLLOWED IN
SHORT ORDER BY XAVIER
HIMSELF AND MAGNETO.

WAITING IN THE WINGS,
EVERY X-MEN LEFT
WHO COULD FIGHT.

EXCEPT FOR THE ONE
RUNNING FOR MAYOR
OF CHICAGO.

WHO STARTED THE MORNING
WONDERING IF SHE'D JUST MADE
THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF HER LIFE.

I'M SCOTT SIMON.
IT'S A LOVELY ELECTION
MORNING HERE IN THE
WINDY CITY.

THE POLLS ARE
OPEN AND THE TURN-
OUT IS HEAVY IN THE MOST
HOTLY-CONTESTED
MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN
IN YEARS.

THIS
MORNING'S
FIRST GUEST,
CORRESPONDENT
DEBORAH
AMOS.

WHAT'S
YOUR TAKE,
DEBORAH?

I THINK
KATE PRYDE
HAD IT ALL,
SCOTT--

--UNTIL
HER CLOSING
STATEMENT.

SUDDENLY,
FOR NO REASON
ANYONE COULD
SEE, SHE WAS
IN TEARS.

OW!

IT WAS AN
INCREDIBLE
EMOTIONAL
COLLAPSE.

I'VE
CERTAINLY
NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE IT.

THAT
MOMENT
INSTANTLY
REFRAMED
THE DEBATE,
SCOTT--

--IN WHOLLY
NON-MUTANT TERMS.
NOT, IS SHE A "MONSTER",
BUT IS SHE TRULY
QUALIFIED?

RACE-
TRAITOR!

MUTIE-
LOVER!

PLEASE! I
DON'T WANT ANY
TROUBLE!

AND THAT,
LISTENERS, IS WHY
LAST WEEK'S CERTAIN
VICTORY HAS BECOME
TODAY'S WIDE-OPEN
RACE.

ELECT CHICAGO'S

ELECT CHICAGO'S

ELECT CHICAGO'S

SHOULD'A
THOUGHT A THAT
B*FORE YOU
SIGNED ON WITH
THE FREAK!

PRYDE

PRYDE



PRESENTS

X-MEN: THE END

BOOK III

CHANDILAR, THE IMPERIAL SHI'AR THRONELAND

CLOSING THE RING

BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT
& SEAN CHEN

SANDU FLOREA INKS
AVALON'S IAN HANNIN
COLORS

DAVE SHARPE LETTERS
SCHMIDT, SITTERSON & LAZER
ASST. EDITORS

TOM BREVOORT EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

THEY CAME IN
PEACE, BUT
READY FOR WAR!

RACHEL GREY,
NATHAN SUMMERS...

...AND, MASQUERADING
AS ONE OF THE X-MEN'S
OLDEST ADVERSARIES,
REMY LEBEAU--GAMBIT!



YOU MAY
ADMINISTER SHI'AR--
IN OUR NAME--LORD
CHANCELLOR...

...BUT WHATEVER
THE PROVOCATION, IN
THIS PALACE ONLY THE
MAJESTRIX SHI'AR CAN
ORDER THE SENTENCE
OF DEATH.

ESPECIALLY OF
ONE WHO STANDS
PROTECTED BY
THE BANNER OF
TRUCE.



CHARLES
XAVIER WAS
ONCE OUR
CONSORT.

HE IS
SIRE OF THE
IMPERIAL
HEIR.

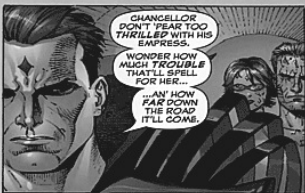


YOU
WILL ACCORD HIM
ALL APPROPRIATE
RESPECT AND
EXTEND HIM EVERY
COURTESY.

IS THAT--
CLEAR?



AS MY
MONARCH--
COMMANDS.



CHANCELLOR
DON'T 'FEAR TOO
THRILLED WITH HIS
EMPRESS.

WONDER HOW
MUCH TROUBLE
THAT'LL SPELL
FOR HER...

...AN' HOW
FAR DOWN
THE ROAD
IT'LL COME.



SUPER-GUARDIAN PLUTONIA WILL SEE TO THE NEEDS OF YOUR COMPANION.

YOU MAY REMEMBER HER, CHARLES. WHEN THE IMPOSTER WHO TOOK YOUR PLACE RETURNED TO DESTROY YOUR X-MEN, SHE STOOD IN YOUR DEFENSE.

AND PAID DEARLY.



CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT WE'RE SEEING?

MAGNETO IS SUSTAINING A STABLE WORMHOLE ALL THE WAY BACK TO EARTH.

GOOD T'ING HE WASN'T SO TALENTED WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER, HIEN?

SOMETHIN' 'BOUT DAT CHANCELLOR--IS AWFULLY FAMILIAR.



HIS MIND IS TOO WELL-SHIELDED FOR PASSIVE TELEPATHIC PROBES...

...AND THERE'S TOO MUCH SECURITY FOR ME TO TRY ANYTHING ACTIVE.

SORRY, GAMBIT.

NO WORRIES. JUS' BE READY, YOU TWO, FOR ANYTHING.



I'LL FIGURE HIM OUT.

SINISTER, CAN YOUR HOUNDPS TAKE DOWN MAGNETO?

I KNOW THAT WALK, THE WAY THAT BOY MOVES.

I'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE!



LILIANPRA WON'T APPROVE.

YOU'RE-- KHANI!



HER REIGN ENDS TODAY--

--AS DOES THE NERAMANI DYNASTY.



LILANDRA--I

YOU WERE MY
CONSORT ONCE,
CHARLES.

THOSE
DAYS ARE
LONG
PAST.



YOU NEVER
TOLD ME WE
HAD A SON.

IT WAS
NONE OF YOUR
CONCERN.

YOUR HOME
IS EARTH. HIS
DESTINY IS
TO RULE THE
AERIE.

GIVEN WHAT
WAS HAPPENING IN
THOSE DAYS, THERE
WAS NO PLACE FOR
YOU IN HIS LIFE. INDEED,
YOU'D LIKELY HAVE
BEEN KILLED ON
SIGHT.



MANY
AMONG MY
PEOPLE STILL
FEEL THAT
WAY.

THE X-MEN HAVE
BEEN ATTACKED, BY
WARSKRULLS.

AND YOU
THINK SHI'AR
RESPONSIBLE?



NO ONE'S
FORGOTTEN WHAT
WAS DONE TO
RACHEL, AT YOUR
COMMAND.

NOR HAS ANYONE
HERE **FORGOTTEN**
WHAT WAS DONE BY THE
IMMENSITY, WEARING
YOUR FACE.



THIS EMPIRE
WAS LAD LOW IN A
MATTER OF WEEKS--
BY A SINGLE
CREATURE.

AND THAT WAS
NOTHING COMPARED
TO WHAT CASSANDRA
NOVA DID TO MY MIND
AND SOUL.



WE ARE CREATURES OF PASSION, CHARLES. THAT IS WHY THE ENTITY YOU CALL PHOENIX IS ONE OF OUR PRIMAL TOTEMS.

THESE ARE HER ASPECTS, IN OUR THEOLOGY:

SHARRA,
THE FIRE OF
CREATION.

K'YTHRI, OF
ABSOLUTE
AND FINAL
DESTRUCTION.

KEPT SEPARATE
AND APART, THEY
REMAIN FOREVER
IN BALANCE.

COMBINED--
THEY WILL EARN
THEIR TITLE, "THE
END OF ALL--
THAT-IS!"



HAVE YOU ANY
IDEA OF THE RISK
YOU TOOK COMING
HERE?

WE DESCEND
FROM A RACE OF
PREDATORS. EVEN
TODAY, WE LIVE BY
BLOOD AND BEAK
AND CLAW--



--THOUGH WE
SUBIMATE THOSE
PRIMAL URGES BENEATH
THE VENEER OF A
THOUSAND GENERATIONS
OF CIVILIZATION.

ALL THAT SAVED
YOUR WRETCHED
WORLD YEARS AGO
WAS THE FACT THE
EMPIRE WAS IN
CHAOS.



YOU'RE
NOT IN CHAOS
ANYMORE.

IN MY FILE
QUEUE IS A SUBMISSION
TO UNLEASH THE GRAND
ARMADA ON YOUR WORLD.
I WOULDN'T PUSH
YOUR LUCK.



MY SCHOOL
IS GONE, LILANDRA.
CHILDREN ARE DEAD BY
THE SCORE, AND X-MEN
BY THEIR SIDE. I HAVE
NO MORE LUCK TO
PUSH.

I MOURN
YOUR LOSS,
TRULY.



THE IMMENSITY
COST SHI'AR A
SCORE AND MORE
OF WORLDS. OUR
DEAD NUMBERED IN
THE BILLIONS.



ALWAYS THE
THREAT COMES
FROM EARTH.

ALWAYS.
THE X-MEN ARE
INVOLVED.



IN MY LIFETIME, I HAVE RULED TWO WHOLE GALAXIES...

...YET AT MY WORST I INFLICT HARDLY A FRACTION OF THE HORROR ON THE COSMOS AS DO YOU MUTANTS.



SO TELL ME, CHARLES-- AS MY FORSAKEN CONSORT--WHEN MY PEOPLE COME TO ME DEMANDING VENGEANCE-- DEMANDING SIMPLE JUSTICE--

--HOW DO I ANSWER?



LET US FIND A BETTER WAY, LILANDRA, WHILE WE STILL CAN.



MY MAD BROTHER GRAVED ONENESS WITH THE PHOENIX. HAD WE NEVER MET, D'KEN WOULD HAVE ANNIHILATED CREATION TO GET IT.

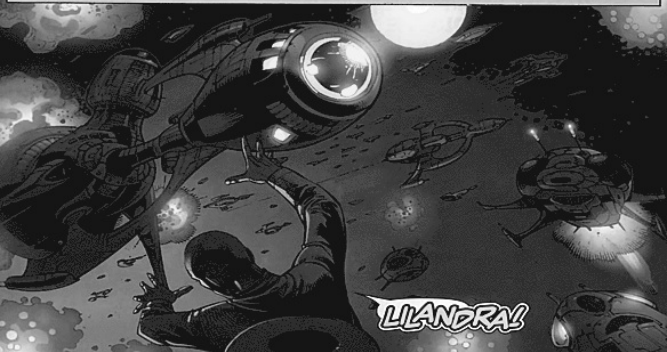
THERE ARE DAYS I WISH HE HAD.



DO YOU EVER FEEL THAT?



LILANDRA, I--!



LILANDRA!

TOO MANY
IMAGES, I CAN'T
HOLD THEM
BACK!

THAT BATTLE
WAS THE MOMENT
WHEN OUR PSYCHES
BONDED, ACROSS
THE INCREDIBLE GULF
OF SPACE--

--AND NOW I'M
IN THE APARTMENT
SHARED BACK THEN
BY JEAN GREY AND
MISTY KNIGHT...

WHAT
THE--?!

JEAN, IT...
LOOKS LIKE
THAT STAR TREK
TRANSPORTER
EFFECT!

I'M COMING
FACE TO FACE WITH
THE FIGURE FROM MY
NIGHTMARES!!

...WHEN
LILANDRA AND I
MET PHYSICALLY
FOR THE FIRST
TIME.

NO!

DEAR
BROTHER--

DEAR
GOD--
NO!

--YOU DID SAY--
NIGHTMARES!



MOMENTS
LIKE THIS MAKE
ME WONDER HOW
WE EVER BEAT
MAGNETO,
SCOTT.

HOPEFULLY,
THE SHI'AR WILL
BE JUST AS
IMPRESSED,
HANK.

SPIKES--?

NO TELEPATHIC
CONTACT CYCLES
WITH EITHER XAVIER
OR RACHEL.

HOW'S
IT GOIN',
SEXY?

WILL YOU
STOP, BOBBY.
WE'RE SO
OVER!

I CALL 'EM
AS I SEE 'EM.
LORNA,
AND
WHAT'S A
PECADE
BETWEEN
BUDS?

TEN
YEARS?

SHE SHOOTS.
SHE SCORES--BUT
SERIOUSLY...

I'LL HOLD UP
AS LONG AS THE
OLD MAN.

BET
YOU WILL,
TOO.

YOU NEED TO
COOL OFF, OR
SOME WATER--
LET ME KNOW,
KAY?

PERHAPS YOU
CAN'T REACH THE
PROFESSOR...

...BUT
WHAT ABOUT
MAGNETO?

HIS POWERS
ARE ALREADY IN
TOTAL SYNC WITH
POLARIS.

"WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO
FIGGY-BACK A TELEPATHIC LINK..."

"...ALONG THE SAME
ENERGY STREAM?"

HOW VERY
INGENIOUS, SCOTT.
YOU REALLY WERE
PAYING ATTENTION IN
QUANTUM PHYSICS
CLASS.

I'M
CONCERNED
ABOUT CHARLES
MYSELF, BUT ASIDE
FROM THAT...

...EVERYTHING
HERE IS ALMOST
TOO QUIET.

DREAD LORD,
THE STARJAMMER
APPROACHES CHANDLAR
BROADCASTING A HOUSE
IMPERIAL TRANSPONDER
CODE THAT GUARANTEES
SAFE PASSAGE.

WHOSE
CODE?

DEATHBIRD, APPROVED BY
THE MAJESTRIX
HERSELF.

HERE
COMES SOME
CAVALRY.

WHAT IS
PLUTONIA
DOING?!



THE SH'AR
SUPER-
GUARDIANS
WERE THE
ULTIMATE
ENFORCERS
OF IMPERIAL
AUTHORITY.

WHUA--?!

FOR THE MOST PART, THEY WERE
HONORABLE BEINGS, AND FEW
MORE SO THAN PLUTONIA.



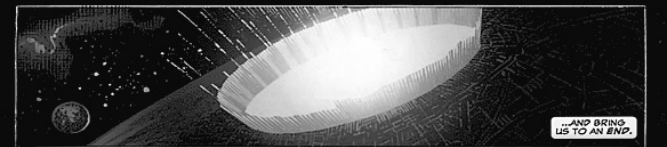
THE LAST TIME WE FACED
CASSANDRA NOVA,
PLUTONIA ALMOST DIED
DEFENDING US.



WE TRUSTED HER. THAT'S
HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO
GET SO CLOSE.

HOW EASY TO
SEE THE PATTERN
IN HINDSIGHT.

AS OUR ULTIMATE ENEMY
USED FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP
TO SETTLE OLD SCORES...



...AND BRING
US TO AN END.

MAGNETO'S FORCE PULSE
VAPORIZED EVERY PIECE OF
FERROUS METAL WITHIN RANGE...

...AND FRIED EVERY
UNPROTECTED CORTX.

FAR WORSE HAD
BEEN DONE TO
MAGNETO HIMSELF.

PLUTONIA HAD
STOLEN THE VERY
LIFE-FORCE
OUT OF HIM.

BUT THAT WAS ONLY
THE BEGINNING.

EVEN AS THE MASTER OF
MAGNETISM BEGAN
DISCORPORATING INTO
HIS COMPONENT ATOMS...

...PLUTONIA MOVED ON
TO HER FINAL TARGET.

THE STARJAMMER

SO
FAR, SO
GOOD.

THOSE
CLEARANCE
CODES ARE
DOING THE
TRICK,
ALIJAH.

TOLD'JA,
CAROL.

WE HAVE
PERMISSION
TO LAND RIGHT
ON LILANDRA'S
DOORSTEP.

THAT
BOTHER YOU,
KURT?

IT REMINDS
ME OF MY LAST
MOVIE.

THE HERO
CAME UP WITH THIS
GREAT PLAN. BUT IT
TURNED OUT THE
VILLAIN HAD IT FIRST.
HE WAS A STEP AHEAD
THE WHOLE WAY.

WHADDYA
THINK THEN,
KURT--

--SHOULD
LIFE IMITATE
ART?

YOU--!

TOO LATE,
MY DEAR.

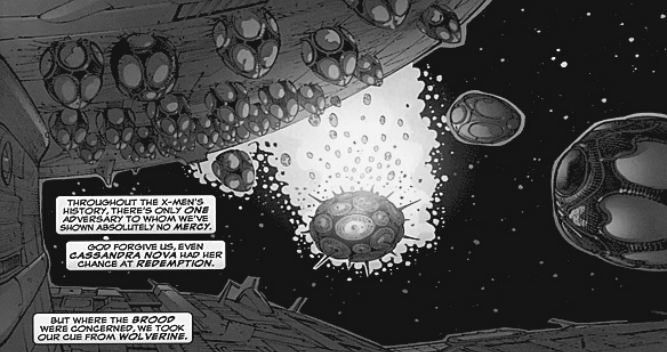
ONE GREAT
DISADVANTAGE
OF A SENTIENT
STARSHIP...

YEARRGH!

...IS IF THE
POOR THING HAS
A STROKE...

...HOWEVER
WILL YOU DEFEND
YOURSELVES?





THROUGHOUT THE X-MEN'S HISTORY, THERE'S ONLY ONE ADVERSARY TO WHICH WE'VE SHOWN ABSOLUTELY NO MERCY.

GOD FORGIVE US, EVEN CASSANDRA NOVA HAD HER CHANCE AT REDEMPTION.

BUT WHERE THE **BROOD** WERE CONCERNED, WE TOOK OUR CUE FROM WOLVERINE.



IT WAS KILL OR BE KILLED, RIGHT FROM THE START.

FOR TEN YEARS WE'D THOUGHT THEM EXTING.



NOW IT SEEMED THEY WERE READY TO SETTLE THE SCORE.

LORNA!

FELICIA, PUT A
CONTAINMENT
FIELD AROUND
PLUTONIA--RIGHT
NOW!

FORGIVENESS,
CYCLOPS--
ABSOLUTION!

ACTIONS NOT
VOLATIVE, ONLY
MY SOUL IS LEFT
MINE OWN, AS
TORMENT.

THE IMMENSITY
LAUGHS TO WATCH
US END.

THIS IS ITS
VENGEANCE
ON US ALL.

SCOTT, SHE'S HYPER-
SATURATED WITH ENERGY, HER
OWN CATALYZING WITH POLARIS'S
AND MAGNETO'S, BUILDING
TO OVERLOAD!

SHE'LL
BREACH
THE WALL TO
4-SPACE.

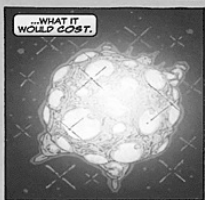
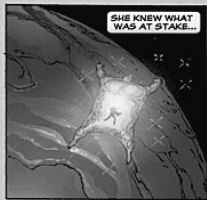
THE BLAST WILL
GOUGE A NEW
MOON OUT OF
THE EARTH'S
CRUST.

NOTHING
WILL
SURVIVE.

HANK, CAN'T
OUR FORCE-
FIELDS--?

NO.

I'M SORRY,
CECELIA, ALL OF
US COMBINED
DON'T HAVE THE
POWER.





SCOTT,
COULD
HUB--?

I'M SORRY,
HANK. SHE KNEW
WHEN SHE STARTED,
IT WAS A ONE-
WAY TRIP.

PLUTONIA
SAID, THE
"IMMENSITY."



SO?

IT'S THE NAME
THE SH'AR USED
TO DESCRIBE
CASSANDRA
NOVA.

THE
PROFESSOR'S
GOING TO NEED
US NOW MORE
THAN EVER.



IF ONLY WE
HAD A WAY TO
REACH HIM?

OH YE OF
SO LITTLE
FAITH!

THAT'S
MAGNETO'S
VOICE--

--SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING!

LORNA?



BOBBY!

IT'S SO
GOOD TO
SEE YOU--

--BUT I DON'T
THINK I'M HERE
FOR LONG.

THIS IS MY
FATHER'S DOING.
HE'S SUSTAINING
US BOTH...



...BY
CHANNELING
CHANDLAR'S
PLANETARY
MAGNETIC
FIELD.

OUR BODIES
ARE DONE, BOBBY.
WE'RE BOTH
MANIFESTATIONS OF
COHERENT ENERGY, WE
REMAIN SENTIENT--
"ALIVE"--BY MY
DAD'S ACT OF
WILL.

WE'VE
RE-ESTABLISHED
THE WORMHOLE,
SCOTT.

BUT
PLEASE--
HURRY!



ORORO--
I'M TAKING
MY TEAM
THROUGH!

SHALL I
FOLLOW?
PLAN B,
STORM--COME
IN THE BACK
WAY.



I'M
COMING.

YOU NEED
A DOCTOR,
YOU NEED
ME!



HENRY, MY
OLDEST FRIEND,
I NEED YOU
HERE.

THIS CAN'T
JUST BE ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENS
TODAY...



...BUT WHAT
FOUNDATION
WE LAY TO BUILD
TOMORROW.

BEFORE
WE'RE THROUGH,
WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH
ORPHANS.



BE THE NEW
PROFESSOR,
HANK.

TEACH
THE CHILDREN
WELL.



SCOTT'S
THROUGH.



BE
WITH LORNA,
ROBERT.

WE'LL BE
WAITING.



MY
DAUGHTER
IS DEAD.

HUMANITY CAN
BREATHE A LITTLE
EASIER, CYCLOPS. THE
LINE OF LEHNSHERR
IS NO MORE.

SO MUCH FOR
CHARLES' HOPES
OF PEACE.

NOW
THESE SHI'AR WILL
LEARN--TO THEIR
EVERLASTING
SORROW--

--HOW
THIS OLD
MAN MAKES
WAR!



WOLFE
HINGE-MASTER



Vortex FX

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